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ABSTRACT

The six papers compiled here cover topics related to government publications and bibliography. In "The Impact of the Use of New Technology in Government Publishing on Libraries," Bernadine E. Abbott Hoduski discusses the impact of the use of new technology by government publishers on the dissemination of government information to libraries, particularly depository libraries. In "L'impact des nouvelles technologies sur les publications officielles" (The Impact of New Technologies on Official Publications), Pierre Pelou points out that the quality of information services is determined not by the use of new technologies, but by the ways in which the librarian utilizes them to meet the information needs of users. In "Government Publications and the Concept of Rarity," Richard Landon considers the concept of rarity in terms of government publications and provides several examples of the scope of rare government publications. In "Survey of Bibliographic Services of International Intergovernmental Organizations: A Progress Report," Sylvie Jacque provides a progress report on a project which is updating an inventory of major bibliographic sources of intergovernmental organizations and conducting a survey of such materials in depository libraries. In "The International Bibliography: A Review," Nellie S. C. Moffitt examines the development of the "International Bibliography," a bibliographic quarterly for intergovernmental publications. In "Bibliographic Control, Use, and Reference Service for United Nations Publications in an Academic Library," Alfred Kagan discusses problems affecting access to United Nations documents. (MES)

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Division of Collections and Services

SECTION ON OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Session: 154 Wednesday 10.30 – 12.00

The impact of the use of new technology in government publishing on libraries *(71-OFFPUB-1-E)*

Bernardine E Abbott Hoduski
Professional Staff Member
United States Congress
Washington DC USA

L'impact des nouvelles techologies sur les publications officielles *(120-OFFPUB-6-F)*

Pierre Pelou
La documentation française
Paris France

Government publications and the concept of rarity *(72-OFFPUB-2-E)*

Richard Landon
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
University of Toronto Canada

Division of Collections and Services
Division of Bibliographic Control

SECTION ON OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS
SECTION ON BIBLIOGRAPHY

Joint meeting
Session: 177 Wednesday 17.00 – 18.30

Survey of bibliographic services of international intergovernmental organizations: a progress report *(73-BIBL-1/OFFPUB-3-E)*

Sylvie Jacque
United Nations Office of Legal Affairs
New York USA

The international bibliography: a review *(80-BIBL-2/OFFPUB-4-E)*

Nellie S C Moffitt
Bernan-Unipub
Lanham MD USA

Bibliographic control, use and reference service for United Nations publications in an academic library *(81-BIBL-3/OFFPUB-5-E)*

Alfred Kagan
Homer Babbidge Library
University of Connecticut
Storrs CON USA

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71-OFFPUB-1-E

THE IMPACT OF THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING ON LIBRARIES

Bernadine E. Abbott Hoduski, *Professional Staff Member, United States Congress, Joint Committee on Printing, Washington, DC USA*

ABSTRACT

The use of new technologies by government publishers is drastically impacting the dissemination of government information to libraries, particularly depository libraries. Librarians have less time than they think to plan for the receipt and use of electronic information.

The publishing world is in a state of transition, moving very quickly from the traditional methods of publishing to a mix of methods, with an emphasis on electronic publishing. Government agencies are no exception. The change seems sudden, because until the last couple of years, most government agencies have used electronic means to generate traditional products and only recently have actively promoted the dissemination of their publications in electronic format. Government publications' librarians have long been aware that the trend is toward electronic publishing and that much data that used to be available in paper or microform is now only available electronically. This data has not been made available on a regular basis to the public through libraries.

Agencies have increasingly used the electronic version of their data internally and ahve ceased publishing it in paper for their own use. There has been a tremendous increase in the use of personal computers and in many instances, like in Congressional offices, entire staffs now use electronic systems. For example, at the Joint Committee on Printing, all of the staff uses electronic word processing, sends electronic messages, as well as accessing the bill digest and the Library of Congress card catatog from our own desks. We are putting the *Congressional Directory* in the word processor. A tape of the *Directory* will be sent to GPO in order that the *Directory* will be published in its traditional form. At the same time a *Directory* data base will be maintained and updated on a daily basis, therefore allowing the next edition to be published much sooner and with a lot less effort. It is now possible, if we wish, to provide the *Directory* in electronic form to the Members of Congress and to sell that data in electronic format through GPO.

Until recently few librarians had planned for the use of or actually used government information in electronic format in their own libraries, even though most of them have used electronic government information through other sources such as the states census data centers. I believe this is because, even though librarians have been urging Congress since 1979 to assure that libraries receive government information in electronic format, as a regular part of the depository library program, they did not believe that it would happen for a long time.

One group of librarians did succeed in persuading the Congress to pass a law directing the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to provide direct access to the patent files to patent depository libraries. PTO is planning an experiment in the Fall of 1987 to test the distribution of information on CD-ROMs, as a substitute for providing the information on-line. PTO believes that this will save money, and to make sure that the test is effective, they plan on providing equipment to each of the ten libraries participating in the experiment. The Census Bureau is equally eager to test the concept of CD-ROM publishing and plans sending CDs with census data to these ten test libraries. The administrators of other depository programs are looking forward to the results with great interest.

The Congress has not ignored the librarians' plea for access to other government information in electronic format. In 1983, the Joint Committee on Printing established The Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Library Access to Automated Data Bases to study the feasibility and desirability of providing government information to depository libraries in electronic format. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the economic feasibility be tested through pilot projects.

The Joint Committee asked the heads of departments and agencies to propose data bases that would be appropriate for pilots. Sixteen agencies including the Smithsonian, the Department of Energy, the Internal Revenue Service and the Geological Survey responded. On April 9, 1987 the Joint Committee passed a resolution authorizing the Government Printing office to establish a pilot project office. The Joint Committee directed the GPO to ask for $800,000 in their FY88 appropriation request for the establishment of tests, and conveyed the Joint Committee's support for funding of the pilots to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Early in June of 1987 the Public Printer established a position at GPO to work on the initial planning at GPO for the project office.

As the result of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, many librarians are now actively planning to participate in pilot projects. The major library organizations in the United States have established working committees to make recommendations on how pilots can be evaluated and how librarians should plan for the use of electronic information. Library administrators recognize that pilot projects for the electronic dissemination of government information can be a test for how libraries should access and disseminate all types of information in electronic form.

The dissemination of government information in electronic format will drastically alter the depository library program and in my opinion will make it possible, for the first time in the history of the program, to disseminate government information to more of the public through more libraries, including small libraries in remote locations. For example, the University of Alaska is working on establishing an electronic reference desk that will be accessible by libraries in some 11 remote locations. Until now a comparatively small number of libraries have had easy access to government information and it has been expensive and cumbersome for them to share that information with the patrons of non-depository libraries.

120-OFFPUB-6-F

L'IMPACT DES NOUVELLES TECHNOLOGIES SUR LES PUBLICATIONS OFFICIELLES

Pierre PELOU, *Sous-directeur, La documentation française, Paris, France*

Les nouvelles technologies de l'information (NTI) ont une incidence directe sur la collecte, le traitement et la gestion des collections de bibliothèque: sur la collecte, par tous les travaux d'édition électronique et de numérisation des données textuelles; sur le traitement par tous les procédés d'informatsation bibliographique; sur la gestion non seulement par tous les modules d'assistance aux acquisitions, aux prêts et à la maintenance bibliothéconomique des fonds, mais encore par tous les supports ou mémoires optiques. Nos bibliothèques, et singulièrement celles qui ont la charge de traiter les publications officielles, doivent tenir compte et intégrer à leurs préoccupations immédiates, la polyvalence de ces systèmes, leur variété, leur complexité. Elles doivent en dégager les forces positives, laisser de côté les initiatives aventureuses, adapter au pragmatisme réaliste des établissements la séduction mesurée des technologies et leurs prototypes incertains. Bref, appartenant à des familles professionnelles qu'on appelle réseaux, les bibliothèques sont aujourd'hui confrontées à l'application des nouvelles technologies de l'information.

Les publications officielles ont leur originalité. Les documents gouvernementaux sont émis par les organes législatifs, exécutifs et judiciaires de niveau fédéral, national, régional ou local. Par suite, sont également concernés les organismes qui leur sont liés administrativement ou financièrment ainsi que les organisations intergouvernementales. Typologiquement, appartinnent à la catégorie des publications officielles les publications parlementaires, les textes législatifs et réglementaires, les documents financiers, les textes de jurisprudence, les statistiques, les publications des administrations centrales, les publications d'information et les publications des différents organismes publics.

A considérer ce paysage documentaire varié, on décèle immédiatement tous les programmes technologiques qui ont cours aujourd'hui. C'est l'édition électronique. Ce sont des banques de données juridiques, politiques, statistiques, administratives. Ce sont les mémoires optiques. Ces trois composantes essentielles mais non exclusives commencent à dessiner un impact qui influence l'organisation des publications officielles dans nos bibliothèques.

LES ORIENTATIONS TECHNOLOGIQUES

Trois axes de développment modifient singulièrement l'espace des publications officielles: l'édition électronique, les banques de données et les mémoires optiques.

L'édition électronique est un concept à facettes multiples qui regroupe des notions telles que la production, la diffusion ou la publication électroniques. Que le document officiel soit le fruit de technologies complexes mais transparentes n'a qu'une incidence secondaire sur l'identité des dites publications. En revanche, que le document soil uniquement électronique pose le problème de son "officialité", de sa permanence et de sa disparition. A côté de l'édition sur support papier des journaux officiels, l'édition administrative s'ouvre à la télématique grand public. Elle réalise des produits nouveaux qui diversifient les informations, complètent l'approche médiatique traditionnelle, font de l'information immédiate un media consommable, à durée limitée.

L'édition électronique n'est pas seulement une réforem de l'édition, c'est aussi une transformation des publications officielles. Elles prennent les caractéristiques des media qui les véhiculent: souplesse dans la définition, communication diversifiée, conservation aléatoire.

Rédaction électronique, édition électronique, microédition, publications assistées par ordinateur (P.A.O.), voici une gamme de termes dont le sens évolue au rythme des technologies modifiant et leur statut et leur présentation.

Les banques de données offrent tantôt des références bibliographiques, tantôt des textes intégraux. Dans le premier cas, c'est une informatisation de bibliographies ou de catalogues. Dans le second cas, c'est un instrument d'accès direct à l'information qui supplée la communication des documents papier.

Si la production administrative classique privilégie les banques de données bibliographiques, l'information juriduque ou économique a tendance à créer des banques de données textuelles ou factuelles. La création en France du Centre national d'informatique juridique (CNIJ) oscille entre les deux approches tout en privilégiant à terme l'approche textuelle par un guichet unique.

Néanmoins, ces approches n'ont aujourd'hui de sens que si l'on parvient, en simplifiant les procédures, à rendre transparentes les technologies. La télématique et la microinformatique sont aujoird'hui capables de fournir une approche qui échappe à toute mesure, multipliant les systèmes et les accès.

*Les mémoires optiques*complètent le disositif de banques de données textuelles reprenant les travuaux de l'édition électronique sous une forme télmatique simplifiée. L'apparition des media analogiques et numériques a permis la création de vidéodisques, de disques optiques numériques et de disques compacts. Les publications officielles d'une part représentent de grandes masses de traitement, d'autre part obéissent à des formes variées de diffusion. A priori, les disques optiques numériques répondent à la première préoccupation en vavorisant une gestion des collections, les compacts disques répondent à la seconde et permettent un accès rapide et simplifié à l'information. Il n'y a donc pas opposition entre les deux media, l'un servant à la gestion locale des collections, l'autre à la communication décentralisée des publications elles mêmes. Par ailleurs, le compact disque a une capacité éditrice multiple qui permet de se passer des réseaux de communication.

Edition électronique, banques de données et mémoires optiques entrent dans la conception de systèmes intégrés facilitant l'édition, le traitement et la diffusion d'une information officielle structurée et à vocation publique. Elles constituent la chaîne technologique projetée et idéale, le pragmatisme des opérations et la réalité des coûts devant modérer un enthousiasme technologique expérimental.

LE TECHNOLOGISME

Les nouvelles technologies de l'information ont un impact naturel sur les publications officielles. Néanmoins, leur présence ou adaption doit être accompagnée par une organisation documentair nouvelle.

Trois conduditesméritent attention: l'empirisme subjectif doit progressivement faire place à une objectivité pluraliste, la bibliothéconomie passive à une documentation active, l'enthousiasme de la nouveauté doit prendre garde au terrorisme technologique.

Le traitement manuel des publications a pour corollaire un comportement de situation, qui permet l'erreur et l'adaptation intellectuelle permanente. L'introduction des nouvelles technologies obéit à des règles, à une normalisation, à des impératifs de délais. Bref, elle impose un cadre plus rigoureux, qualifiable, qui exclut tout empirisme subjectif. Le bibliothécaire doit désormais admettre les contrôles et la réglementation, et d'être jugé sur une utilisation extérieure indépendante. Il est appelé à travailler pour un public, des utilisateurs qui paieront leur information. A la notion de service public gratuit fait place la notion de service payant, de coût de l'information, et par suite d'exigences nouvelles de qualité.

Cette exigence de qualité a pour contrainte la recherche active d'une documentation exhaustive. Il ne suffit plus d'attendre passivement que les publications parviennent à la bibliothèque. Il faut sans cesse faire l'effort de rechercher tout ce qui est produit de manière commercialisée ou sous la forme d'une littérature grise indirecte. Dès lors, nous sommes confrontés à plus de précision dans la collecte, à l'établissement de réseaux d'établissements ou de personnes coordonnés eet coopératifs. A l'isolement bibliothéconomique doit faire place un dynamisme rigoureux et un travail en équipe structuré et homogéne.

Ces comportements doivent néanmoins veiller à new pas s'accompagner d'un technologisme triomphant qui isolerait ses acteurs des objectifs. Nous assistons aujourd'hui à un terrorisme technologique qui envahit nos établissements et qui, sous couvert de schémas directeurs ou d'audits, entend imposer, par l'organisation, les réformes que nous savons de toute manière indispensables. Sans doute est-il préférable que la profession elle-même, dans le cadre de cercles de qualité, prenne en mains et la réflexion et la mise en oeuv re d'une politique nouvelle pour laquelle les nouvelles technologies sont un facteur essentiel, déterminant, mais demeure un des moyens de renouvellement et de l'adaptation à un type de société en mutation.

La construction d'une civilisation de l'information est le but auquel les professionnels réunis sont aujourd'hui confrontés et associés.

L'ORGANISATION NOUVELLE

Les nouvelles technologies de l'information ne constituent pas une fin en soi. Elles contribuent à l'organisation nouvelle des bibliothèques et à leur efficacité. Or, le fond du problème réside plus dans la productivité des bibliothèques, l'activité de ses agents et la valeur ajoutée de l'information que dans une course forcenée aux technologies.

On constate que les bibliothèques bien gérées sont avantagées par l'informatique, que celles qui ne le sont pas sont désavantagées par l'augmentation des dépenses informatiques. La mise en place des systèmes intégrés de bibliothèque a mis en évidence un déclin de la productivité. L'augmentation de l'informatique a entraîné une multiplication des tâches et des fonctions, et sans apporter nécessairement une valeur ajoutée aux services rendus au public, elle a fait chuter la productivité traitant moins d'informations dans un laps de temps identique.

En vérité, la productivité des bibliothèques qui répond aujourd'hui au coût d'une information considérée comme matière première des cultures, ne se mesure pas aux applications informatiques mais à l'activité et à la compétence de ses bibliothécaires. La question que l'on doit se poser, c'est de savoir si l'utilisation d'une banque de données bibliographique apporte au public des prestations supérieures au mode traditionnel pour un coût généralement plus élevé. Or, ces questions ont le plus souvent été occultées, les bibliothécaires ayant informatisé leurs fonds sans se soucier généralement des besoins réels des utilisateurs finals. La seconde question est de déterminer les critères de la productivité d'une bibliothèque et, les mettant en rapport avec les besoins des utilisateurs, de déterminer s'il est bon ou non de fiare appel à l'informatique et aux nouvelles technologies.

L'impact des nouvelles technologies associé à la notion de coût de l'information doit nous amener à poser le problème délicat de la productivité des bibliothèques. S'agissant par suite des publications officielles, de la productivité et de la nécessité stratégique du maintien ou du développement des éditions.

La mesure de la productivité des bibliothèques se heurte immédiatement au fait que les cadres moyens n'aiment pas qu'on mesure leur production. Le différentiel Quantité/Qualité sert encore de raison au fait qu'il y a trop de cadres pour ce qu'on produit. On peut penser que l'augmentation du coût de traitement d'une unité bibliographique doit être justifié par les services supplémentaires qui sont rendus. Mais la notion de service public sert encore de caution à toute une série d'entreprises hasardeuses et aventureuses que l'Etat n'est plus en mesure ou ne souhaite plus assumer. Toutefois, il faut bien admettre que, comme le souligne le sociologue Norbert Alter (1), "les nouvelles formes d'informatique (NFI) arrivent bien plus à une transformation qu'à une augmentation de la production d'informations traitées". C'est pourquoi Norbert Alter parle plutôt de "productivité organisationnelle" que de productivité. L'enjeu, n'est plus seulement de produire mais de transformer l'organisation de la production pour la rendre plus efficace et plus performante. On ne se place plus alors seulement dans une réussite économique mais dans une recherche d'efficacité par rapport aux objectifs bibliothéconomiques et documentaires. Ce langage est nouveau pour les bibliothécaires, le calcul de leur productivité voire du leur rentabilité ayant rarement été pris en compte dans le calcul de leur action. Mais, à l'inverse, il apparaît bien que l'actif d'une bibliothèque c'est la valeur de ses bibliothécaires. Contrairement à l'idée reçue, le changement permanent n'est pas un signe de snaté organisationnelle. Il est plus souvent désengagement personnel, responsabilité arrêtée dans son

développement. Les nouvelles technologies de l'information impliquent une formation longue, coûteuse et permanente. Pour en amortir l'investissement, il est nécessaire de garder son personnel longtemps et de conserver les agents qui ont acquis une expérience de qualité.

(1) La productivité organisationnelle, par Norbert Alter, In: Resources/ Temps Réel, no 30, mai 1987.

C'est pourquoi, finalement, la valeur ajoutée de l'information se calcule plus sur la qualité de ses bibliothécaires que sur les moyens techniques indispensables à son traitement. Edition électronique, banques de données, mémoires optiques, ce sont des concepts technologiques qui n'ont de signification que si ceux qui les mettent en oeuvre ont la compétence et le sens des valeurs informationnelles et savent les mettre en oeuvre pour un public donné.

72-OFFPUB-2-E

Government Publications and the Concept of Rarity

Richard LANDON, *Head, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, Canada*

ABSTRACT

The factors of rarity for books may be applied with equal validity to government publications. The importance of government publications for the study of the history of printing of, exploration, and the history of science, among other fields, is widely recognized, but the documents themselves, because of their rarity, are not always easily identified. The scope of rare government publications is demonstrated by several examples.

Many librarians probably wish that government publications were rarer than they seem to be. This attitude, however, is the result of the vast quantity of published material issued by and for official government agencies, not inherent qualities of rarity possessed by individual books or pamphlets. The concept of rarity, which for books includes the notion of importance as well as relative scarcity, may be applied to government publications with as much validity as to any other kind of book. The factors of rarity are numerous, but include age, the number of copies printed, special circumstances of publication, popularity, recognizable significance and format. Government publications I take to be (no doubt simplistically) the works issued by or on behalf of a recognized official government agency.

What are the earliest printed government documents? In the European context one might make a case for indulgences, those documents issued for the remission of punishment still due to sin after acramental absolution, but only if one is willing to accept the Roman Catholic Church as a government body. The indulgences, printed in great numbers by Gutenberg and other early printers, are certainly rare, due to their ephemeral form, and of great interest to historians of printing. More conventionally, we know that, in England, the *Nova Statuta* of the Kings Edward III and IV were printed by William de Machlinea in 1485 and that the *Magna Carta* appeared in print in 1508. Documents of this kind are probably among the earliest printed works of all European countries as the potential of the printing press to promulgate and disseminate was recognized very early. It is something of a cliché, but true nonetheless, to say that without the printing press the Protestant Reformation would have been confined to downtown Wittenberg.

The significance and importance of the foundation documents of countries, such as the Declaration of Independence of the United States, are widely recognized and easily understood. Thus I would like to concentrate attention on a few examples of the products of government presses less familiar and important for reasons both obvious and obscure. The examples will also demonstrate some of the factors of rarity.

The Treaty of Versailles, which concluded the First World War, must be one of the most disastrously significant documents ever printed. Its text, or parts of it, are easily available in a number of secondary sources, but the original (the "first edition"), printed in nine large folio volumes, exists in only six complete sets. Five of these are in official government archives. The sixth, offered for sale in 1973 for 7500 pounds sterling, is now in Japan. Its rarity is apparently due to the extreme secrecy of the negotiations and the mutual distrust between the Allied nations.

Government publications are essential for the study of the history of printing in North America. As westward expansion occured during the nineteenth century printing presses were carried to remote outposts by early settlers and, most often, the first imprints of the new territories, states and provinces of the United States and Canada were either government documents or newspapers. The contents of these often unassuming pamphlets constitute the foundation historical records for much of the continent. The first imprint of the Illinois Territory was issued in Kaskaskia in 1814 (Illinois became a state in 1818) and consisted of a 24 page "Communication to Both Houses of Illinois Legislative" by Governor Ninian Edwards. In it Edwards attacks the British, criticizes the Treaty of Ghent, and calls for a complete conquest of the Canadas. The only known copy of this pamphlet was sold on October 24th, 1967 at the Streeter Sale for $30,500 and now resides, appropriately, in the Illinois State Archives. Its rarity is the result of its physical format (small and ephemeral), its appearance in a remote place from a small press (Matthew Duncan was the printer), and the apparent indifference with which it was regarded (Edwards was a factional politician).

Across the continent gold was discovered in British Columbia in 1858 and the ensuing rush brought people, formal government and the printing press to what had been a huge and uninhabited area governed by fur traders. Lieutenant Henry Spencer Palmer of the Royal Engineers conducted two surveys of the Cariboo gold fields and the best routes to the Interior of B.C. on behalf of the government, and the Royal Engineers Press in New Westminster issued both in 1863. These two pamphlets, complete with maps, look like typical government documents of the mid- century, with formal title-pages and blue printed wrappers. They illustrate the great significance of government publications in the history of exploration and are both rare and important.

The history of scientific discovery, a field of intense collecting interest and an academic discipline, is often revealed through government publications because so much scientific research is supported by governments. The "Smyth Report" reminds one that government publications don't have to be old to be rare. Henry de Wold Smyth, a consultant to the "Manhatten Project", compiled a remarkably full and candid account of the development of the atomic bomb, which was officially released on August 12th, 1945, six days after the Hiroshima explosion. It is a scarce and very important document but was preceded by the rare "advance issue" for press use, a mimeograph of the original typescript produced at the nuclear station in Oak Ridge, Tennessee in circumstances of extreme security. To ensure secrecy, several mimeograph machines were used, the operator of each being given a series of totally unconnected leaves of the typescript, the collation of which was personally supervised by General Groves, the commandant of the Manhatten Project.

Many government publications have a considerable historical significance not recognized at the time of their publication. Indeed their real value may not be recognized until long after they have dissappeared and become rare. Such is the Parkes Report. In 1889 William E. Gladstone, in his first term as Prime Minister of Great Britain, mentioned to the Foreign Secretary that he wished to obtain information on papermaking in Japan. This instruction was relayed to Sir Harry Parkes, the Minister in Yedo, asking for a report and allowing the expenditure of 100 pounds to obtain specimens of the paper. Sir Harry was a thorough civil servant. He instructed his three Consuls to proceed systematically and they sent in detailed lists of the different types of paper, complete with the production figures for each maker and the cost of the papers calculated to the last farthing. The specimens included, besides sheets of writing and printing paper, an umbrella, hats, telescopes, waterproof coats, tobacco pouches and fans. Most remarkably, one Consul, a Mr. Lowder, commissioned a series of twenty beautiful watercolour drawings depicting all the stages of papermaking; at a cost of four dollars. The report, along with six hundred specimens, was sent to London, appeared as Command Paper C-400 (Japan No. 4) in 1871, and sank into the morass of Command Papers. The specimens were consigned to the South Kensington Museum (now the Victoria and Albert Museum) and there they rested, undisturbed, for 107 years. In 1978 Hans Schmoller re-discovered the Parkes Collection and the Bird & Bull Press published his account of it, with a facsimile of the now seemingly rare Parkes Report, in 1984. How many more Command Papers are there with contents of equal interest to historians?

These few examples illustrate something of the scope of rare government publications. There are, one suspects, a great many, unrecognized, in government publications libraries which could provide librarians with the opportunities for exciting and important discoveries.

SURVEY OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES OF INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: A PROGRESS REPORT

Sylvie Jacque, *Librarian in the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section, New, York, USA*

ABSTRACT

This brief progress report concerns a project which was introduced at the Chicago meeting in 1985; one section consists of an updated inventory of major bibliographic sources of Intergovernmental Organizations which will be in form of annotation for each source and a second section is an actual survey among depository libraries of such material; a specific questionnaire has been put together for the survey and has been sent to libraries across the world; the names of the libraries have been taken from the United Nations roster; a reference librarian at the United Nations, Ms Maritina Paniagua is in charge of the inventory part and the author of this presentation is taking care of the survey. The project will be finalized in a report to be presented next year at the IFLA meetings in Australia.

This project was first introduced in a paper at the Chicago meeting in 1985 which was published in the January/March issue of *International Cataloguing* (Quarterly Bulletin of the IFLA International Programme for UBC). As indicated at that meeting, the purpose of the project is to update the study presented at the Paris Congress in 1977 entitled "Survey on the present state of bibliographic recording in freely available printed form of government publications and those of intergovernmental publications" which was in part an annotated inventory of bibliographic sources of the major international organizations.

In this progress report, I am going over the different sections of the project and comment on their development:

The first section is actually the update of the 1977 inventory: it is being proceeded on by a colleague at the United Nations Library, Ms Maritina Paniagua who is a reference librarian, specialized in United Nations publications; many of the same intergovernmental organizations have been selected for this research as before, but not quite as many since the focus here is to examine a narrower spectrum of organizations (the emphasis is on the regional aspect this time) to be able to determine more precisely a certain pattern of bibliographic control done by IGOs. The list of bibliographic sources which are going to be compiled and annotated, can be found in the second part of the questionnaire which has been handed out; each bibliography is being described both in terms of content and format and some comparisons may be drawn between the current sources and the ones of the 1970s, if a major change, addition or omission has occurred. So far a preliminary draft has been prepared on this part.

The second section which is the survey among users of those bibliogra- sources, is well in progress; the final consolidated questionnaire started to be sent last April to all depository libraries of the world; most of the names of the institutions were taken from the United Nations roster, the others were suggested to us by colleagues of IFLA from various countries, i.e. Australia, New Zealand, Germany etc ... The survey part is being handled by myself, of course under the sponsorship of the IFLA Official Publication Section and the Section of Bibliography; a few responses have been mailed back already which encourages us to expect a good percentage of responses in general to the survey; the questionnaire is available also in French, Spanish and Arabic. As you can see from the copy that was distributed, that the first part is a list of short questions covering all aspects of bibliographic control which is asking librarians what their preferences are; this should really be a unique opportunity for "frustrated" librarians dealing with "the incredible maze which international publications constitute" to finally express their opinions officially on the subject, since their views will be conveyed to the IGOs when the project is completed by the summer of 1988. The second part of the questionnaire is actually the list of the main bibliographic sources issued by the organizations selected for this study so as to verify which sources are most frequently received and by which type of libraries and if so by which methods they have been acquired and in which specific form.

In the final report which is to be presented next year in Australia will contain the final inventory with complete annotations as well as the results of the survey and their meaning; a third section will include recommendations which will be presented to the IGOs based on a synopsis of the first two sections.

The International Bibliography: A Review

Nellie S. C. Moffitt, *Head, International Documents, Bernan-Unipub, Lanham, MD USA*

ABSTRACT

The paper examines the changes in this bibliographic quarterly for international organization publications. The reasons for its existence, then and now, are discussed, as well as whether the reasons for starting it are still valid. Organization, coverage, and promotion of this periodical are compared with the original volumes and the current volumes. Future plans and the inevitability of change and its potential impact on the periodical are also discussed.

Unipub, originally organized in 1955, was known as the National Agency for International Publications, Inc. (NAIP). It was established, at the urging of UNESCO, to fill the need for a specialized organization in the United States, whose primary interest would be the distribution and dissemination of information about UNESCO publications. Unipub today distributes publications from the United Nations (UN) and UN specialized agencies. The company was sold to Xerox Corporation which in turn divested itself of the company in 1985. Unipub is now a part of the Kraus Thomson Organization, Ltd.

Unipub's foray into bibliographic control began in 1972 with the issuance of *Publications of the United Nations System: A Reference Guide* and *Man and the Environment: A Bibliography of Selected Publications of the United Nations System 1946-1971*, both by Harry N. M. Winton, former Chief, Dag Hammerskjold Library, United Nations. These publications, according to James W. Gerard, the Vice President of Unipub, generated more sales than anticipated. Not only did they themselves sell and sell well, in the case of *Man and the Environment*, sales were generated for the items listed in the bibliography. Sales for Unipub were increasing due to the bibliography.

Concurrently, pressure was mounting within the library community for a bibliographic tool which would carry on the work of the United Nations *Document Index*'s coverage of the United Nations specialized agencies publications. In 1962, the UN *Document Index* stopped including specialized agency publications due to the large volume.

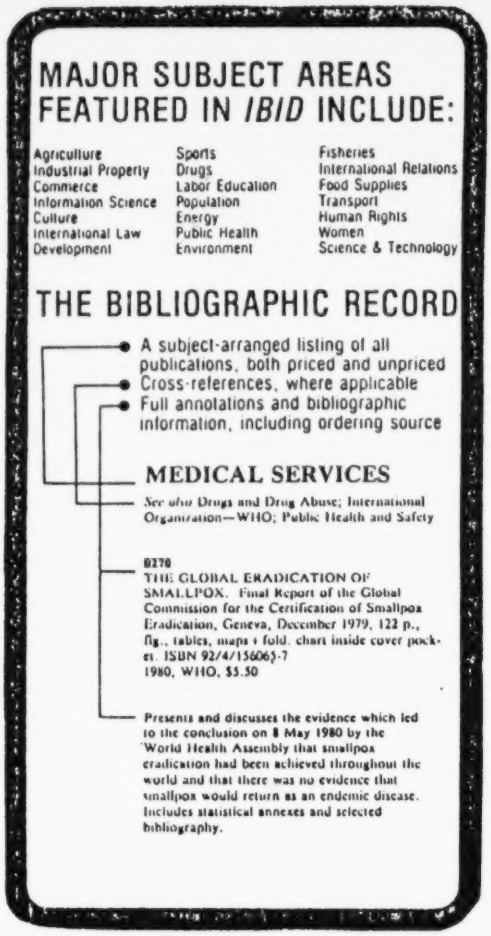
With the radical success of *Man and the Environment* and the resulting sales of Unipub products, Unipub approached Mr. Winton to become the editor of a single source bibliographic tool for UN and UN System publications.

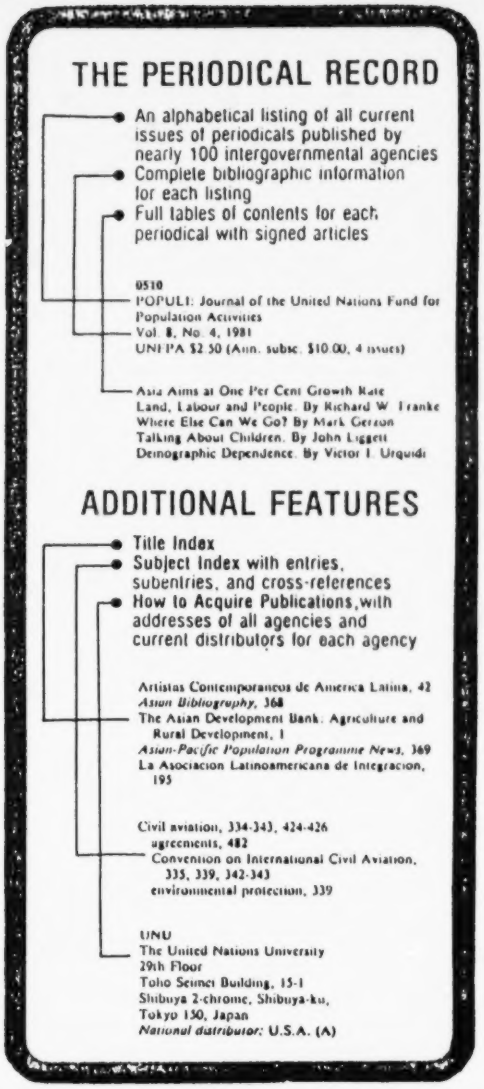
The publication, to be issued quarterly, would organize the material into broad subject categories, provide coverage of periodical issues and provide information and current news on the publishing programs of the UN system. All entries would be annotated to distinguish this effort from that of the UN and other bibliographic tools and to help the user. The *International Bibliography Information Documentation* (later changed to the *International Bibliography*) (IB) was announced at the American Library Association, Government Documents Task Force sponsored workshop on United Nations Documentation in October 1972. Mr. Gerard outlined Unipub's reasons for beginning the effort: lack of single source indexing; National Bibliographies providing only partial coverage; the various catalogues one needed to check; sales catalogues which ignored the unpriced publications; and lack of indexing for the UN System periodicals and journals.

The IB debuted in March 1973. The introductory materials outlined the ambitious program IB was about to undertake: subject categorizing and annotating UN and UN System publications (priced and unpriced); listing all periodicals and contents as necessary; presenting current news and retrospective articles on UN System publications programs. Mr. Winton, editor for the first six volumes, was the guiding force behind the IB. His extensive knowledge of the UN System and its publications made the task less difficult. With his retirement and the subsequent change in editors in 1979 and 1981, the aims and ideals of the original IB were lost, although the IB today retains the core of the original IB. It is still the only single source bibliographic tool for UN and UN System publications and now includes many other international organization publications as well.

COVERAGE – PUBLICATIONS AND AGENCIES

In the IB, from vol. 1 no. 1 (March 1973) to the present, coverage is the main issue. In its initial issue, the IB announced it would include priced and unpriced publications (books, periodicals, maps, and audiovisual materials) including co-published; authorized reprints of out-of-print texts, and publications of governments and institutions prepared at


MAJOR SUBJECT AREAS FEATURED IN *IBID* INCLUDE:
Agriculture
Industrial Property
Commerce
Information Science
Culture
International Law
Development
Sports
Drugs
Labor Education
Population
Energy
Public Health
Environment
Fisheries
International Relations
Food Supplies
Transport
Human Rights
Women
Science & Technology
THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD
A subject-arranged listing of all publications, both priced and unpriced
Cross-references, where applicable
Full annotations and bibliographic information, including ordering source
MEDICAL SERVICES
See also Drugs and Drug Abuse; International Organization—WHO; Public Health and Safety
0270
THE GLOBAL ERADICATION OF SMALLPOX. Final Report of the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication, Geneva, December 1979. 122 p., fig., tables, maps + fold. chart inside cover pocket. ISBN 92/4/156065-7
1980, WHO, $5.50
Presents and discusses the evidence which led to the conclusion on 8 May 1980 by the World Health Assembly that smallpox eradication had been achieved throughout the world and that there was no evidence that smallpox would return as an endemic disease. Includes statistical annexes and selected bibliography.


THE PERIODICAL RECORD
An alphabetical listing of all current issues of periodicals published by nearly 100 intergovernmental agencies
Complete bibliographic information for each listing
Full tables of contents for each periodical with signed articles
0510
POPULI: Journal of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities
Vol. 8, No. 4, 1981
UNFPA $2.50 (Ann. subsc. $10.00, 4 issues)
Asia Aims at One Per Cent Growth Rate
Land, Labour and People. By Richard W. Franke
Where Else Can We Go? By Mark Gerzon
Talking About Children. By John Liggett
Demographic Dependence. By Victor I. Urquidi
ADDITIONAL FEATURES
Title Index
Subject Index with entries, subentries, and cross-references
How to Acquire Publications, with addresses of all agencies and current distributors for each agency
Artistas Contemporaneos de America Latina, 42
Asian Bibliography, 368
The Asian Development Bank: Agriculture and Rural Development, 1
Asian-Pacific Population Programme News, 369
La Asociacion Latinoamericana de Integracion, 195
Civil aviation, 334-343, 424-426
agreements, 482
Convention on International Civil Aviation, 335, 339, 342-343
environmental protection, 339
UNU
The United Nations University
29th Floor
Toho Seimei Building, 15-1
Shibuya 2-chrome, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo 150, Japan
National distributor: U.S.A. (A)

the request of the United Nations. Working documentation circulated to participants during official sessions, etc. would be excluded. As to the unpriced materials, only those items which were identified as readily available would be included. Today, these rules do not apply. The priced and unpriced publications are still included but rarely are maps or audiovisual materials. Co-published materials appear but rarely do we seek out other elusive materials. Even for the items include, the IB is dependent on the agencies. A change in staff at an organization may result in an interruption in the receipt of material.

Coverage of the agencies is equally an issue. The IB began its effort covering 22 agencies. The number of agencies listed is a little misleading as the separate entities which make up the UN, such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, are not detailed in the first volume. The second volume (1974) begins this practice and the agency count increases to 57. 1976 brought the announcement of the expansion of the IB to include intergovernmental organizations publications. This expansion outside the UN System brought in agencies such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Since 1977, the IB has maintained a core group of 82 agencies, although at present we are covering 110.

ORGANIZATION

The organization of the IB has reflected the changes in the Unipub management and editors. The Bibliographic Record retains much of the original format. It is organized into approximately 40 broad subject categories. The publications are listed in alphabetical order with bibliographic data and a brief annotation. The subject categories have been added and dropped as new topics and terminology have emerged. The Perodicals Record retains the original format of titles in alphabetical order, listing the major articles when appropriate. The periodicals section during 1979 and 1980 reflected the organization of the Bibliographic Record, listing by broad subject category. The periodicals section then returned to the original format in 1981.

The "Information and News Section" which appeared for the first six volumes attempted to cover the publishing programs of the UN System. In the first volume, each agency covered by the IB was detailed giving its aims, purposes, publishing mandate and key officers. With the expansion to intergovernmental organizations, this task becam overwhelming. The retirement of Mr. Winton, the force behing the "Information and News Section", resulted in the elimination of the section and it was quietly dropped in 1979.

The indexing, of special interest to the users of the IB, was not of particular importance to the editors in 1973 and 1974. The individual issues were not indexed; only the volumes were indexed in the fourth issue. With volume 3, 1975, a subject index appeared in each issue and cumulated as the volume progressed. The practice continues today as does the title index which started in volume 8, 1980.

The "How To Acquire Publications" section continues today as it was established in 1973. It details the scope of the IB, lists the agencies covered in alphabetical order by acronym with addresses, and cross references the agencies to the list of national distributors at the end of the section. The acronyms used are those used by the agencies themselves and have reflected the changes in agency names. The acronyms appear to follow United Nations terminology, although our rule is to follow the agency itself not the United Nations.

PROMOTION AND AWARENESS

The IB, prior to and directly after its initial issue, was advertised heavily by Unipub and received good reviews, then slowly disappeared from view. In the past fifteen years, little advertising has been done in the library professional journals although a direct marketing campaign continues. Outside advertising, a sign of awareness, peaked in the IB in 1978 and 1979. Since then the main advertisers have been Unipub itself or one of its parent/sister companies. This absence of outside advertising has brought charges that the IB is nothing more than another of Unipub's marketing tools. Although the charge could be

considered valid looking only at the outside advertising, the IB has been maintained as a separate entity within Unipub and has strived to maintain a high level of professionalism.

NEW DIRECTIONS

The Challenge for us as the new publisher of the IB is to analyze the IB's strengths and weaknesses and to determine where our emphasis should be for 1988 forward. With volume 16, a new editorial staff will be guiding the IB at our sister firm, Kraus International Publicatons (KIP). Their involvement in publishing bibliographic materials makes them the logical choice to continue this publication.

With this editorial change, revisions to the IB are almost inevitable. It is clear to us, however, that the need for the *International Bibliography* exists as much today as it did in 1972 when it was first conceived. The problems which existed fifteen years ago still exist today: various catalogues must be consulted; National Bibliographies still providing only partial coverage; sales catalogues which ignore the unpriced materials; and lack of indexing of international agency periodicals. In addition to these continuing problems, the world has become a smaller place and the roles of the international agencies have increased as have the number of international organizations.

In the next few months as KIP reviews the IB, we will be deciding whether to add an agency index; to reintroduce the "Information and News" section; and to expand our coverage of international agencies. In addition to these decisions, we will analyze what must be done to increase the awareness and use of the *International Bibliography* itself; increase the outside advertising in the *International Bibliography*; and improve upon an already very useful reference guide. We feel we have a great opportunity. The *International Bibliography* remains the only single source bibliographic tool for international agency publications.

81-BIBL-3/OFFPUB-5-E

Bibliographic Control, Use, and Reference Service for United Natio United Nations Publications in an Academic Library

Alfred Kagan, *Reference Bibliographer, Government Publications Department, Homer Babbidge Library, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA*

ABSTRACT

Access to United Nations documents and information is often difficult due to lack of sufficient local bibliographic control, lack of specialized staff to service users needs, and lack of user awareness that the materials exist. This case study discusses the implications of these problems and the solutions (including full cataloging) being implemented at the main library of the University of Connecticut, USA.

INTRODUCTION

Most of us will agree that United Nations documents are very important sources of information, but just how important are they? One indication is shown by a five year study of the academic journal, *International Organization*. It found that about one of four citations was a document, and 77% of them were from the U.N. system.[1] Library collecting policies also show their value. The 1981-82 IFLA/UNESCO survey of 199 libraries found that 91% of the libraries surveyed collect international documents and 61% of them probably collect some U.N. system documents.[2]

The United Nations system of organizations annually produces approximately 100,000 documents, although only about 7,500 are in a format that we generally consider "publications." These figures count the six different official language versions (Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, and limited use of Arabic). For example, about 45,000 documents are issued in English including about 2000 "publications."[3]

We know that there is a massive amount of material, that it is heavily used by at least some scholars, and that it is likely that the majority of large research libraries collect at least some of it. The issues involving international documents librarianship must therefore be heavily influenced by how we deal with U.N. materials.

The following discusson excludes documentation published by the U.N. Specialized Agencies, such as the World Bank group. For the most part, these documents are not included in the standard U.N. indexes and have their own special bibliographic control patterns and problems. This paper deals with documentation of the 6 principal organs and other subsidiary organs. Please see the chart at the end of the U.N. Guide provided.

This is a case study of how we are servicing our U.N. collection at the Homer Babbidge Library at the main campus of the University of Connecticut (16,000+ students). It will delineate the problems and our approaches to solving them. The Library has standing orders for all U.N. Official Records, U.N. Sales Publications, and the near comprehensive Readex microform sets. Various other publications are received free from mailing lists, solicited individually by letter, or bought selectively.

II. BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library at United Nations Headquarters in New York has primary responsibility for the bibliographic control of U.N. documentation. Bas ut with any large organization, the Library must depend on the various publishing bodies to supply necessary information. This is where the system can and does break down. Nevertheless, the Library staff deserves much credit for continuing to improve access to materials.[4]

As we know, official document numbers serve as the primary method of control. It is obvious that documents not assigned numbers may escape the indexes, and therefore be the hardest to track down. As with other document classification systems, this one is based on provenance (origin), not subject. Each research libary thus faces the dilema of using the U.N.'s own classification system (by provenance) in a separate collection, doing what we generally do (classification by subject) and integrating the documents into the main collection, or some combination of the two. The UNESCO survey found that 22% of the sample keep separate international document collections, 23% intergrate international documents with other documents in a separate collection, and 46% integrate with the main collections.[5] Libraries are evenly split between separate collections and integration! Furthermore, the survey shows that when considering all kinds of documents, current practice usually involves keeping partially separate collections.[6] Whether the survey figures represent philosophical disagreement, adaptation to local conditions, or confusion is open to debate.

The Babbidge Library is a depository for United States an State of Connecticut publications, but not for U.N. documents. In 1983, the Library received a grant to begin cataloging its foreign and international document monographs. But unfortunately, numbered monographic series were not included in the project, and of course, most U.N. documents fall into this category. In the past, the mere presense of a U.N. official document number provided a quick and easy check-in mechanism. Anything could be made part of a so-called "general series" under a particular corporate body. Provenance reigned supreme; local subject access was almost non-existent. A further confusion resulted from assigning call numbers to documents lacking official document numbers. And, of course, none of these documents were represented in the main public card catalog. U.N. documents were effectively hidden from view and access was overly complicated. Full Library of Congress cataloging was to be the answer, but funds ran out. The result was even more confusion.

How could we easily explain to users that the documents might be in the separate collection by U.N. number (or pseudo-U.N. number), or cataloged and in the general stacks, or in process, or indefinitely in storage waiting to be cataloged. Furthermore, because of space problems in the open stacks, all of the remaining foreign and international materials were moved to sub-basement storage last year. It seemed that despite good intentions, we were just creating more and more complexity.

When one of the documents reference librarians left for another position, the library administration made a decision to hire a documents serials cataloger to try to finish up where we left off on the grant project. So we are now cataloging foreign and international non-periodical serials and making good progress. Some U.N. annuals have already made their way into the general collection and some are cataloged for our documents reference collection. Although U.N. periodicals are still indefinitely in storage, they are the least difficult type of material to access. Unfortunately, the U.N. "monographic series" are another matter. There seems to be little hope in providing reasonable access to this large and important collection in the near future.

III. USE

The Babbidge Library keeps no separate circulation records, no separate in-house use records, and no separate reference statistics for international documents. Nevertheless, the following observations can be made. When the collection was shelved strictly by provenance in open stacks, the sophisticated user had a good chance in accessing

the collection with the help of a documents librarian and through various standard and special indexes. But the typical user was dissuaded from learning a separate and complicated method of accessing unknown materials. Furthermore, even librarians neglected this difficult to use collection.

During this transitional period, even the sophisticated user is a bit more confused. Since most of the documents are in storage, browsing is now impossible. A small percentage of the documents are now dispersed within the general collection and classified by Library of Congress call numbers. The experienced user needs to learn to also look in the public card catalog for some of the materials. On the other hand, usage should increase as access becomes more regularized.

When the project is complete, most of the U.N. documents in paper copy will be accessed through standard library tools. By that time, we should also have an on-line catalog to replace our traditional card catalog. Obviously, all types of users will benefit tremendously. The documents will be fully cataloged and back in the open stacks for easy access and browsing.

IV. REFERENCE SERVICE By concentrating on better future service, we have had to give up our current reference service priorities. With a staffing shortage, we have had to transfer one position from reference work to cataloging. With less public service staff, we have been forced to substantially reduce our documents Service Desk hours. As a result, more demands are made on the rest of the public service staff who generally have little documents training. Because so few of the records are currently in the public card catalog, it is not yet feasible for staff outside the Government Publications Department to service the U. N. collection. During this transitional time, we face a higher level of user and staff frustration. Immediate plans for much better cross-departmental cooperation with other public service departments can and should help the situation.

Any good reference librarian knows that finding books on a particular topic is one thing, but finding the precise information needed is another! No amount of bibliographic control and subject cataloging can eliminate the need for specialized reference assistance in accessing U. N. information.

This particularly true for some generic types of material, such as journal articles or the information within the U. N. Official Records. For this reason, the Babbidge Library has decided to keep the Official Records along with other U. N. reference materials in the Government Publications Department Reading Room. The "Finding Aids" included in our U. N. Guide attempt to cut through the confusion, but most users will need much specialized assistance. The same is true for our rudimentary guide to bibliographies produced by the U. N. libraries. Production of these materials is a step in offsetting some of the problems mentioned above, but it is not a cure-all or a solution. The materials are well-suited for sophisticated users, but probably of little help to inexperienced students. In the end, it is the personal service of the documents librarian that will fulfill most users' needs.

V.CONCLUSION

It is clear that bibliographic control is the key to use and reference service for U. N. materials, but documents librarians will always be needed to pull out the information contained within the documents. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library is doing a commendable job in upgrading bibliographic control, but it is up to individual libraries to decide how to use the bibliographic information provided. Our experience shows that arranging a U. N. collection by official document numbers is not sufficient in itself to provide needed access. Not all U. N. documents are assigned official numbers and using the numbers often results in splitting up serials. New users are confused by a classification system quite unlike what they are used to in locating other library materials. Local guides can help, but enhanced subject access for the general novice user remains an overriding goal. Outside access to the U. N. database, UNBIS, would be of immeasurable help in this process. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has talked of doing this for some years now, but it is up to us to continue lobbying. With advances in technology, documents librarians are needed now more than ever to find new and better ways to make United Nations information easily available. In addition, it is one concrete way to promote a global world-view and the work of the Organization.

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1 Goehlert, Robert, "A citation analysis of *International Organization.* the use of government documents, *Government Publications Review* 6,2 (1979): 188-189.

2 Cherns, Jack J., *Availability and use of official publications in libraries‹ix›, (Paris: UNESCO General Information Program and UNISIST, 1983, PGI-83?WS/30), p. 69. The survey shows that 61% collect international documents from outside their own geographic area.*

3 Luciana Marulli-Koenig quoted in Schaaf, Robert W., "International organizations documentation: resources and services of the Library of Congress and other Washington based agencies," Government Information Quarterly‹ix› 1, 1 (1984): 63.

4 For a recent discussion of problems and achievements, see: Dusoulier, N., "The bibliographic control of United Nations documents and publications" «paper at the 51st IFLA Convention, Chicago, 1985», International Cataloging‹ix› 15 (April 1986): 22-24.

5 Cherns, p. 69.

6 Cherns, p. 25.